

LITERACY B.C.

July Update...

Summer 1998 Bulletin to our members

July 1998

Volume 4, Number 3

It's time again to....***Take 5 and Read***

Literacy B.C. and the B.C. Library Association (BCLA) will partner again this year in the sixth annual **Take 5 and Read** campaign in B.C. for International Literacy Day.

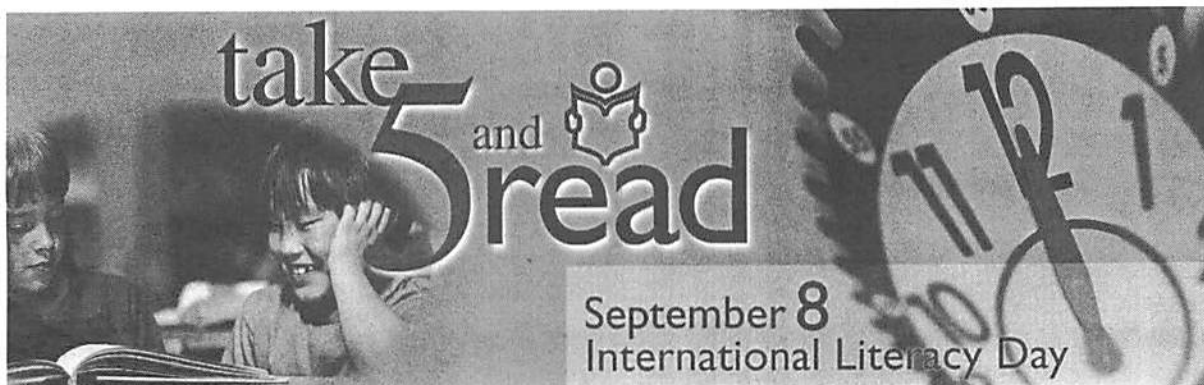
The campaign urges everyone to "stop what you're doing -- pick up a book, a community newspaper, anything -- and READ" on this special day.

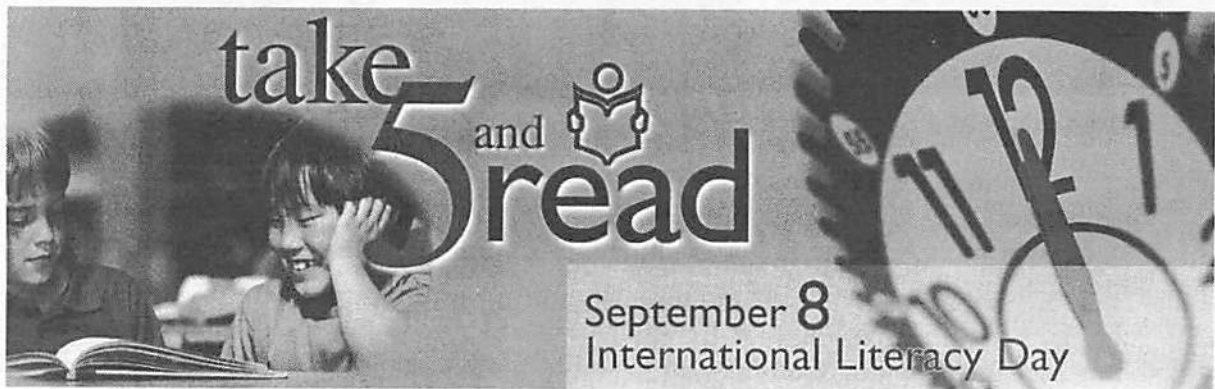
Across B.C., libraries, community literacy groups and students will host events to celebrate literacy and draw attention to the importance of literacy in our everyday lives.

Literacy B.C. and the BCLA plan to distribute **Take 5 and Read** information packages to public libraries, community literacy organizations, programs using volunteer tutors, schools, colleges and community newspapers throughout the province in mid-August.

The kits contain a newly designed poster and bookmarks, a sample media release and proclamation, an information sheet, and suggested activities to raise public awareness for International Literacy Day.

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Groups are encouraged to organize activities such as:

- ☐ mall and library displays
- ☐ book sales
- ☐ local celebrities and learners reading from their own work
- ☐ events honouring local companies and organizations that use clearly written and easy to understand labelling and advertising

About 650 information kits will be produced for distribution.

Literacy B.C. and the BCLA would like to thank **Coast Paper**, **Hemlock Printing** and the **Insight Group** for their donations of materials and support.

Other sponsors of the **Take 5 and Read** campaign in B.C. are:

- ☐ B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association
 - ☐ Canada Post Corporation
- ☐ Laubach Literacy of Canada (B.C.)
 - ☐ Library Services Branch,
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - ☐ Vancouver Public Library

Some suggested activities for International Literacy Day

- ☐ encourage your local newspaper to write an article on literacy
- ☐ hold an open house at your local literacy centre
- ☐ organize a literacy walkathon or bikeathon
- ☐ design a literacy banner or stage a poster event
- ☐ organize a reading session for children and seniors

If you do not receive a kit, and would like to be added to the mailing list, call Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293 toll-free. ☐

The 1998 Learner Achievement Award

Congratulations to Kate Nesbitt of Telkwa, B.C., the 1998 winner of the Learner Achievement Award!

We are honoured to have The Co-operators sponsor this award which recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C. Each year a winner is chosen by a committee of adult learners from nominations received from literacy groups. This year's winner was announced at the PGI golf tournament held July 9 at the University Golf Club in Vancouver.

Thank you to everyone who submitted an application and congratulations on your many achievements!

Meet Kate Nesbitt

Kate Nesbitt, 44, is a student in the literacy program offered by Smithers Community Services, where she is working with a tutor and studying for the GED. Kate dropped out of school at 19, after experiencing difficulties with reading, writing and spelling since Grade 2. She found school difficult and believed there was no chance of ever completing Grade 12. In 1997 a chance encounter at her workplace with tutor Jodi DaCosta led her to the literacy program at Community Services.

"My life has changed so much in the last year and a half," she says. "It is amazing what one conversation, in the middle of a store, can do for you."

Kate began by overcoming the coping mechanism she had adopted of memorizing words in order to read. Jodi worked with her on the concepts of phonetics, grammar and spelling.

Through her "absolute zest for learning", Kate advanced rapidly and now reads well. She has begun to write stories on her computer and has been asked to advise new tutors in the Smithers literacy program about how it feels to be a student.

"She has surpassed by far the goals she first set out with me and I am proud to say she has surpassed my ability to tutor her," says Jodi.

Kate's daughter Jessi, 18, is also proud of what her mother has accomplished. "With hard work, dedication and striving to achieve something people told her she could never get, my mom is now getting the chance she deserves. She now even offers to edit my English homework and look at my math homework. A couple of years ago that never would have happened. My mom is achieving her dreams."

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Kate's goal is to write the GED exam in the fall and take courses at Northwest Community College within the next year. After that, she would like to pursue her interests in the healing arts.

"Learning is fun and exciting. I no longer feel like a complete idiot. I hope to some day be able to help other people in my position. That is the only true way of repaying what has been done for me." □

Who We Are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Human Resources Development Canada, The National Literacy Secretariat; memberships and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

Literacy B.C.

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Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.
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WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Donations to Literacy B.C. are
tax deductible.

New Resource from the B.C. Literacy Cost-shared Program

The Way It Is. Readings for Adult Students. Malaspina University-College, Cowichan Campus, and Cowichan Tribes Ya Thy Thut Training Program.

This is a collection of stories and poems about ordinary life. The writings were selected by ABE students and instructors at Malaspina University-College. *When you read these stories and poems, they may remind you of people in your life, and of things that have happened to you. We hope you will want to write some life stories for your classmates to read.*

Copies are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last.



***Watch our September Newsletter
for stories on:***

The 1998 Summer Literacy Institute
ABC CANADA's LIVE & LEARN Campaign
Canada Post Flight for Freedom Award
... and more